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of their land as insurance against old age and sickness. They state that this property will be given to those who care for them during their last days--usually their children.

Permanent Division of Property

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The permanent division of property is usually made after the deceased parent's hobkas. A hobkas is a memorial service on the first anniversary of an adult's death that normally consists of a novena (prayers at the family altar for nine consecutive evenings) and maybe a memorial mass in the poblacion church. The tenth day of the novena a feast is held in honor of the deceased person. The hobkas costs money; a pig or goat must be slaughtered, food and drink purchased, and if a memorial mass is held a payment is made to the church. These expenses are deducted from the deceased's property before the permanent division is made. If the property were permanently divided before the hobkas, disputes might arise over sharing the cost of the memorial service.

Sometimes the permanent division of one's property is made after the kaliwasan, the tenth day after the deceased's funeral. (A kaliwasan is a novena that begins the day of one's death with a feast on the tenth day.) The kaliwasan is another expense connected with death in the barrio and the cost is deducted from the deceased's property. In one case in Caticugan a woman's property was permanently divided after her kaliwasan but her heirs

set aside a cow for the hobkas to be held on the first anniversary of her death. 428 765 428

The temporary partition of one's fields in Caticugan is often the same as the permanent division. For example, one informant said that just before his father's death he told his children to transfer his land titles to their names. It was agreed among the children that the fields they were then farming were their fair shares, and the records were changed a few days before the father's death. This was an obvious and a successful attempt on the father's part to prevent disputes after his death.

Permanent division of properties is normally accomplished at a meeting of the heirs. They hold a conference and agree upon the division. This is where the eldest sibling, as "head of the family," may attempt to obtain more than an equal share. For example, in 1951 one case in the Siaton municipio court concerned the efforts of an elder brother to retain his mother's property. When the father died, the elder son managed the family fish corrals. "During the Japanese occupation their bonsods [fish corrals] sold ₱15,000 [$7,500] of fish in emergency notes. The eldest son was the right hand of his mother and took charge of this money." According to local informants, on his mother's death the elder son refused to share the bonsod profits with his younger siblings because "his mother was indebted to him." He also claimed that all of his mother's land belonged to him for he had